

4 losses on their way to a record fifth national title.

Congratulations to the 'Etta Express.

RECOGNIZING MIKE CONNOLLY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Connolly, an educator at the Charles E. Shea Senior High School in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, for his leadership in launching the Voters in the Classroom initiative. Voters in the Classroom is a statewide mock election initiative involving nearly 25 percent of public high schools across the State of Rhode Island.

Mr. Connolly's Voters in the Classroom initiative is an effective classroom-based program helping to prepare students to be engaged public citizens. Students in the Voters in the Classroom program participate in mock statewide referendums on important topics, establish voting procedures through classroom discussions and assemblies, and staff polling places at their schools.

I recently visited the students and educators at Shea High School and have seen firsthand the importance of this program. Civic education programs like this are key to the success of our democracy because they increase the likelihood that young people will engage in the election process when they become of age.

I congratulate Mike Connolly on this achievement and thank him for his forward-thinking commitment to Rhode Island's students and the preservation of our democracy.

DEBT LIMIT VOTE

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, since this President has taken office, we have had the failed stimulus, omnibus, TARP II, Government Motors, the government takeover of health care. Well, the buck stops here. Literally, House Republicans refuse to give the spender-in-chief a blank check to pay for his reckless ways.

If the President even wants to think about moving forward with the debt limit increase, he needs to know that Americans want Congress to drastically cut spending.

Across the Nation, people have cut back and stretched their hard-earned dollars in order to make it through these tough times. The government must do the same. We're facing a debt crisis because Washington spends too much and wastes too much.

Raising the debt limit without a deep spending cut amounts to a Barack Obama big-government bailout. Enough is enough. Stop the Obama bailout now.

□ 1210

VETERANS' UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I comment on why I am standing next to the brave and the true of our United States military, let me give a message to Syria and express my outrage over the heinous killing of a 13-year-old boy. President Assad should be held accountable now. And the United Nations needs to voice its opposition. As the Secretary of State has indicated, we need to be standing alongside those seeking freedom in Syria.

And to our allies in Bahrain, where our fleet of Navy personnel are, what a disgrace that they have imploded and blown up mosques because they disagree with their particular faith. This is the Arab Spring, but it will end in devastation if we don't stand for truth and human rights and compassion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important, as I stand next to the brave men and women, some who have fallen, and those who now still fight, to ask my Republican friends do you understand that there is a 10 percent unemployment among those who are coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan? Yes, troops who are fighting for us and fighting on our behalf. Yet it has been 21 weeks and the Republicans have no jobs agenda. We need jobs. Create jobs! If you believe in these troops, build jobs for the American people.

UNFAITHFUL ALLY?

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about Pakistan, the more they sound like the Benedict Arnold nation in the list of countries we call allies. First, it was Osama bin Laden, the world's number one outlaw, living comfortably in a mansion in Pakistan for years, but Pakistan claims no knowledge of that.

Now, a reporter in Pakistan, Syed Saleem Shahzad, has been murdered. He has been critical of the Pakistani Government. He reported that the naval base in Karachi that was attacked was done so by al Qaeda members of the Navy of Pakistan. Human Rights Watch says Shahzad was assassinated by members of the Pakistan intelligence agency, who previously had threatened him.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is chumming up to the Chinese. Sounds like Pakistan is playing both sides in the war on terror. Seven in 10 Americans believe we need to stop or decrease foreign aid to Pakistan. We should stop foreign aid to Pakistan until we know whose side they're on. We don't need to pay them to be unfaithful. They will do it for free.

And that's just the way it is.

SENIOR SAFETY NET

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, after a lifetime of service to their families and our Nation, America's seniors deserve the security of a basic safety net like Medicare and Social Security. Sadly, the Republican budget that the House approved in April puts fundamental programs at risk. The Republican budget will end guaranteed Medicare coverage for seniors, I state, end guaranteed Medicare coverage for seniors; cut benefits and turn control over to the insurance industry; and double out-of-pocket costs for seniors over the next decade.

From day one, the Republican plan to end Medicare will toss 4 million seniors into the prescription drug doughnut hole. And from day one, seniors across the Nation will have their copays reinstated for their annual wellness visit.

Seniors in my district understand that we must lower the deficit, but it should not be on the backs of the poor or the disadvantaged. But they also know that it is wrong to end Medicare so we can extend the tax breaks for the millionaires and billionaires. Let's work together on a real budget and lower the deficit.

ENDEAVOUR AND SENATOBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Mr. NUNNELEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, at 2:35 a.m., *Endeavor* landed safely following its final trip into space. As *Endeavor* retires after its 25th mission, it lives on with a unique legacy: the only space shuttle named by children.

In 1989, Senatobia, Mississippi, Middle School was the national winner in a competition to name a new spacecraft. Their mission? To come up with a name that captured the spirit of America's mission in space.

On May 16, two decades later, as *Endeavor* launched its final mission, those elementary children are now adults, and the spirit and excitement of that final flight was felt most in Senatobia, Mississippi. As the Senatobia-1, a balloon built and flown by students, was launched, it was filled with signatures wishing Congresswoman GIFFORDS a speedy recovery and captured beautiful images of their beloved spaceship as it took to the skies for one last time.

ATTEMPTS TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM MEDICARE PLAN

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, last night we saw once again a great display of political theater. My friends across the aisle scheduled a vote on raising the